

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
23 June 2005 (23.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/056434 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B65G**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2004/005159

(22) International Filing Date:
10 December 2004 (10.12.2004)

(25) Filing Language: **English**

(26) Publication Language: **English**

(30) Priority Data:
0328672.1 10 December 2003 (10.12.2003) **GB**

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):
GENOME RESEARCH LTD [GB/GB]; The Sanger Institute, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge CB10 1SA (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **JONES, Colin [GB/GB]**; c/o Genome Research Ltd, The Sanger Institute, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge CB10 1SA (GB). **GAGE, Stephen [GB/GB]**; c/o Genome Research Ltd, The Sanger Institute, Wellcome Trust

Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge CB10 1SA (GB). **PATEL, Kunal [GB/GB]**; c/o Genome Research Ltd, The Sanger Institute, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge CB10 1SA (GB).

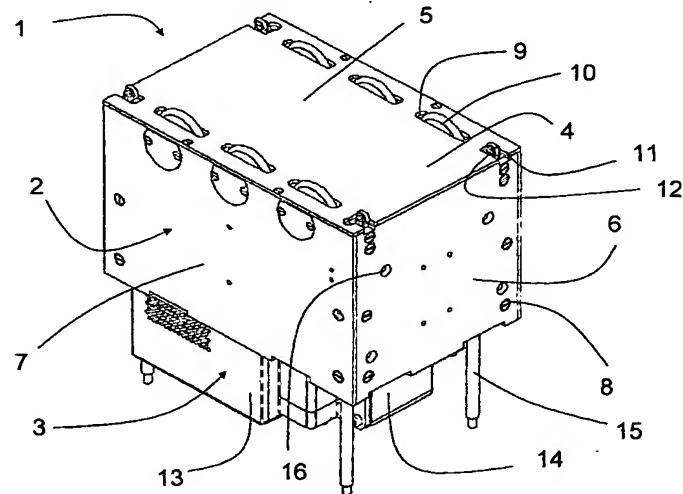
(74) Agent: **I.P. 21 LIMITED**; Norwich Research Park, Colney, Norwich NR4 7UT (GB).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): **AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW**.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): **ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW)**, Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MODULAR UNITS



(57) Abstract: A modular unit for transporting work pieces and suitable for use in an array of such units, comprises a top; transportation means which propel the work pieces onto and/or off said top and against which the work pieces rest when located on the top of the unit, the transportation means being part of said top; in which the transportation means occupy one or more regions of the top of the unit whilst one or more remaining regions of the top are not occupied by transportation means but are suitable for receiving a work piece treatment device.

WO 2005/056434 A2

**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE,*

BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

Published:

— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.